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RHODE ISLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Office of Technical & Customer Assistance

Quarterly Project Report

**Project Title:** *Auto Salvage Environmental Results Program: Improved Compliance & Performance Through Innovation*

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**Reporting Period:** July 1 - September 30, 2006

**Project Description:** OTCA's vision is to reduce environmental health risks by improving regulatory efficiency and auto salvage yard industry compliance through a comprehensive, multi-media program patterned after the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's ERP model and consisting of three parts:

- 1) Facility certification
- 2) Statistically-based performance measurement
- 3) On-site compliance monitoring, pollution prevention and technical assistance

DEM regulatory stakeholders, industry representatives, and project partners will be recruited to assist OTCA in reaching a goal of 75% industry-wide voluntary certification with a 25-50% average measurable improvement in selected environmental business practice indicators (EBPIs) during the first years of implementation.

EBPIs will be selected to assess improvements (relative to baseline conditions) in industry performance in air, water, and RCRA compliance as well as pollution prevention; the potential for release prevention, emissions reduction and human health/environmental protection will be key considerations. Outcomes will be measured using the statistical approach developed for the RI Auto body ERP including: statistically determined number and randomly selected locations for baseline and post-implementation compliance audits (given pre-specified levels of statistical confidence, power and compliance rate proportions), generally accepted methods for data analysis and EBPI comparisons, and summary reports that outline findings with appropriate descriptive statistics.

**The Auto Salvage Yard Industry in Rhode Island:**

In Rhode Island, there are currently eighty-five (85) Auto Wrecking & Salvage Yards licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation, located in twenty-six (26) communities. The license is active for a three year time period, and must be renewed to maintain it. Auto Salvage Yards are required by law to be licensed by RIDBR in order to operate.

**Project Activities Completed During Reporting Period:**

- Updated the draft Certification Workbook and Certification Checklist Package, with comments and input from staff from EPA New England and RIDEM (T. Armstrong, R. Enander)
- Carried out follow-up visits to auto salvage yards (E. Park, R Enander, Narragansett Bay Commission staff)
  - One of the goals was to identify auto salvage yard licensees (licenses issued by the RI Department of Business Regulation) as being actively operated auto salvage yards, or licensees no longer operating active auto salvage yards
  - Through the baseline audit process and through contact with auto salvage yard property owners, it has become apparent that some auto salvage yard operators/property owners maintain an Auto Wrecking & Salvage Yards license from the RI Department of Business Regulation, but are not currently operating an auto salvage yard
  - This will assist in more accurately targeting those licenses actually operating auto salvage yard facilities to receive certification information and services, as well as providing more accurate information when analyzing data
- Worked on tabulating the results of the baseline audits (R. Enander)
- Participated in a NEWMOA/States Common Measures Project Meeting and Training on September 28, 2006 in Chelmsford, MA (R. Gagnon, T. Armstrong)
- Participated in State/EPA EMS Permit/ERP Conference Calls (R. Gagnon, T. Armstrong)
- Completed the draft design for the Auto Salvage Yards webpage that will be placed on the RIDEM website (T. Armstrong)

**Major Activities Planned for Next Quarter:**

- Complete incorporating all comments from RIDEM staff on the draft Certification Workbook and the draft Certification Checklist Package.
- Hold a second internal stakeholder meeting (governmental officials)
- Complete tabulating the results of the baseline audits
- Hold a general stakeholder meeting, including industry and municipal stakeholders, after the second internal stakeholder meeting
- Finish cleaning up the database to identify active and inactive auto salvage yard facilities
- Work with DEM webmaster to prepare Auto Salvage Yards webpage for placement on RIDEM website in early 2007
- Continue to participate in State/EPA EMS Permit/ERP Conference Calls
- Continue participating in the NEWMOA/States Common Measures Project
- Participate in the States ERP Consortium

Attachments: Draft Certification Workbook  
Model Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan  
Draft Certification Checklist Package  
Draft design for Auto Salvage Yards webpage